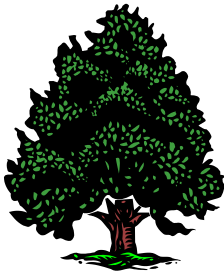




# FACT SHEET

GUIDE NO. 18  
TREES HAVE MANY BENEFITS



*Landscape trees are valuable assets, averaging nearly three times the investment.*

Trees are often planted for aesthetics, but did you know that trees have many other benefits too? They benefit people and communities in more ways than you might be aware of. Properly cared for landscape trees are valuable

assets averaging nearly three times the investment. The greatest benefits are energy savings and higher property values.

### Trees Help Control Greenhouse Gases And Provide Healthier Environments.

- 100 trees remove 37 tons of carbon dioxide from the air each year—that's 740 pounds per tree!
- 100 trees remove 248 pounds of other air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone and airborne particles per year.
- 100 trees catch approximately 139,000 gallons of rainwater per year—that's 1,390 gallons per tree!.

### Trees Save You Money.

- Trees can save up to 20% on annual air conditioning costs by shading your home.
- Trees can save 2% on winter heating costs by providing a wind screen.

### Trees Can Lead To Higher Property Values.

Each large front yard tree can add 1% to the house sale price. Large specimen trees can add 10% to property value!

The short story is these many benefits actually pay us back. The benefits of landscape trees actually exceed the costs of the tree over time.

According to the USDA Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research, 100 healthy trees over a 40 year period provide the following dollar benefits:

	Yard Tree	Street Tree
Benefit	\$364,000	\$379,000
Costs	\$ 92,000	\$148,000
40 Year Net Benefit	\$272,000	\$232,000

### Tree Maintenance Is Key To Protecting Your Investment.

Keeping your trees healthy is the best way to reap all of the benefits listed. The following tree maintenance tips should help to keep your trees healthy for years to come.

- Avoid digging drainage, utility or construction trenches near the tree roots.
- Apply only 2"-3" of mulch, making sure not to pile the mulch against the trunk.
- Monitor for disease and insect problems. Consult a licensed arborist if you suspect problems.
- Prune broken or infested branches.
- Do not nail or tie anything to trees.
- Apply slow-release, river friendly fertilizer.

## The Right Tree For The Right Location

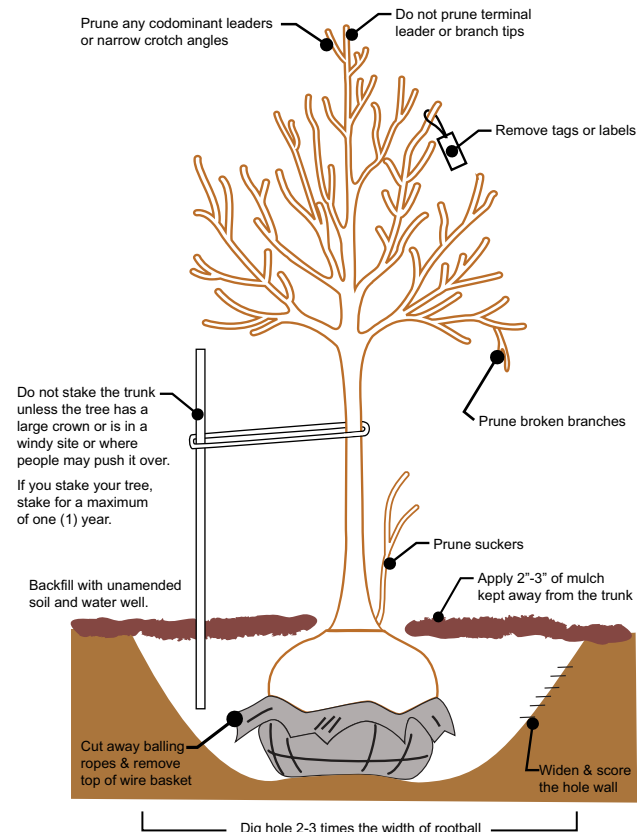
Even the best maintained tree will not do well if it is planted in an area that a particular species is not suited for. Remember—trees are a long term investment so why not invest some time in planning your landscape! The following tips will be helpful for all tree species.

- Plant understory trees like dogwoods in shade, not full sun.
- Do not plant water-loving trees like willows near septic fields.
- Align trees for wind screens where they will block winter wind, not where wind will funnel around or between them.
- Avoid planting trees with leaf or fruit “litter” near pools, decks and paving. Locate where they will provide shade and can self-mulch.

## Planting A Tree

Planting a tree properly is essential to its long and healthy life. There are three (3) types of nursery stock as shown below. The illustration shows some planting tips to make your next tree planting a success.

- Avoid planting evergreens where they block winter sun. Instead, plant deciduous trees for summer shade and winter solar radiation.
- Don't plant trees too close to the house. Plant further away or plant smaller trees and shrubs.
- Branches can create hazards or block views. Locate trees away from street corners or vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
- Avoid planting trees directly under utility lines. Locate trees away from lines or plant smaller, low growing trees or shrubs.
- Plant trees away from sidewalks to allow root expansion without lifting the paving.
- Check with Plymouth Township regarding tree species that are not allowed to be planted in road right of ways.



## Types of Nursery Stock



**Bare Root:** Cut broken or damage roots then spread evenly over soil pedestal before filling hole.

**Container Grown:** Remove container and cut circling roots.

**Balled & Burlapped:** Cut ropes and as much burlap as possible before planting.

Information for this fact sheet is from "Trees Pay Us Back," USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Newtown Square, PA, August 2006. NA-IN-11-06.